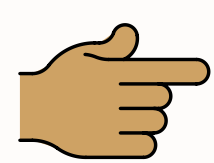




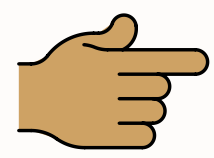
# RESPONSIBLE PET-OWNERSHIP

Domestic pets are an important part of Australian culture, but they can wreak havoc on native wildlife and ecosystems.

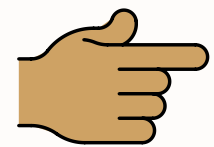
Australia is home to over 100,000 native animal species; a statistic we are surely very proud of. However, sadly our love of introducing domestic animal species from other countries has been at the detriment of much of our native wildlife. Since the year 2000, at least 62 species of native animals have been registered extinct, with most of them driven to extinction by introduced species. Domestic cats kill at least an estimated 540 million native animals a year in Australia. Domestic dogs kill far less but often attack larger animals like koalas. Feral horses trample sensitive ecosystems like in the Australian Alps, and feral grazing animals like water-buffalo in the Northern Territory spread serious environmental weeds and destroy waterways.



**[Learn how you can reduce your cat's impact](#)**



**[Understand more on responsible pet-ownership](#)**



**[Learn about the impact of feral horses](#)**

## Find out more about [#responsiblepets](#)

How to entertain your cat for an indoor life – [Catio Spaces](#)

Invasive species causing extinction of wildlife – [ABC News](#)

Important research and conservation – [Invasive Species Council](#)